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NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich Urban District Council.

Macan and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1943.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	..	..	..	..	..	2,137 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	..	..	..	..	..	18,130.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943)	..	..	..	..	..	5,460.
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	£123,435.
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£481.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Live Births	(Legitimate	Total 304	M. 159	F. 145)	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	18.42.
	(Illegitimate	30	14	16)		
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	12	1	11)	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..	42.97.
	(Illegitimate	3	1	2)		
Deaths	..	..	..	221 114 107	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	12.18.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	-	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.86</u>
Total	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.86</u>

Death Rate on Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	47.90.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	46.05.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	66.66.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	32.
" " Measles (all ages)	..	..	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	-

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1943.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	1	5
7. Other Tubercular Diseases	1	1	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	-	1
9. Influenza	1	2	3
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac: Polio-myel: and Polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	-	-	-
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M), uterus (F)	2	1	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	9	3	12
15. Cancer of Breast	-	4	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	6	7	13
17. Diabetes	-	-	-
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	13	21	34
19. Heart Diseases	24	28	52
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	7	4	11
21. Bronchitis	4	1	5
22. Pneumonia	6	7	13
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	-	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	1	4
28. Nephritis	4	3	7
29. Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	1	1
31. Premature Birth	3	4	7
32. Congenital Debility & Malformations	-	1	1
33. Suicide	2	-	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	-	2
35. Other Violent Causes	7	2	9
36. All Other Causes	11	12	23
	114	107	221

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There are no new or special provisions to report upon this year. The Cleansing Centre services referred to in my 1942 report have been fully utilised and appreciated by cases of vermin infestation amongst our own Urban residents, Evacuees and residents from adjoining County Districts. Early in 1943 the useful practice was commenced of giving preventive treatment to other members of a household in which Scabies has already occurred even though such home contacts had no visible signs of infection. No formal action under the Scabies Order was called for during the year, it being found that persuasion alone was sufficient to ensure the attendance at the Cleansing Centres of both sufferers from, and contacts to cases of, vermin infestation.

Towards the end of the year Influenza became prevalent and the suggestions of the Ministry of Health on how the Local Authority could assist households in which hardship was being experienced were acted upon and approach made to local organisations asking them to assist in giving any home help they could. Fortunately the epidemic, though widespread, did not prove too dangerous and enquiries of the local Practitioners at the time, showed that very few families were not able to manage with the help of relatives and neighbours. For this reason it was not found necessary to make use of the voluntary organisations locally.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - During the year 2 samples of the Town's supply were examined by the County Analyst and were reported upon satisfactorily.

As to the sufficiency of the supply in the area, the following sets out the proportion of dwelling-houses and the population served from the Council's Waterworks, either directly or by means of standpipes:-

		<u>Population Served.</u>
Percentage of houses with direct piped service	- 96.6%	18,130.
Percentage of houses with standpipe service	- 3.4%	
Percentage of houses dependent upon private wells or other sources	- Nil.	-

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - Inspectors of the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have visited the Joint Sewage Disposal Works and expressed their satisfaction on the general working. Samples of the final effluent from the Works have been taken for analysis and the reports received have been very satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation - During the year the number of conversions to the water carriage system was 3 and the number of houses still on the conservancy system in built-up areas is 476.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets, etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remain- ing in hand	Prosecutions Insti- tuted	Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	605	6	84	70	20	-	-
2. Cellar Dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Back-to-Back Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	60	-	10	10	-	-	-
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Pail Closets	476	-	30	30	-	-	-
7. Cesspools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. House Drainage	35	-	35	35	-	-	-
9. Ditches, Water-courses, etc.	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
10. Offensive Accumulations	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
11. Keeping of Animals	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
12. Offensive Trades	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. a) Slaughterhouses (Public)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" (Private)	52	-	4	4	-	-	-
b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold	210	-	20	20	-	-	-
14. Piggeries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued
(continued)

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remain- ing in hand	Prosecutions Insti- tuted	Pending
Brought Forward	1,445	6	186	172	20	-	-
15.a) Dairies	40	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Cowsheds	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Milkshops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.a) Factories	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Workshops	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Workplaces	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Outworkers' premises	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Bakehouses							
(overground)	56	-	4	4	-	-	-
" (underground)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Common Lodging Houses	24	1	2	3	-	-	-
19. Houses let in Lodgings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. Smoke Observations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. Canal Boats	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. Infectious Disease Inquiries & Re-visits	105	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1,702	7	192	179	20	-	-

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

As part of the Council's post war housing work, detailed schedules of inspections were prepared during 1943 by the Additional Sanitary Inspector and myself of the following working class properties:-

73	houses	in the Warrington Road area.
19	"	" " " Oldham's Hill area.
7	"	" " Molyneux Place.
14	"	" " Post Office Place.
33	"	" " Tabley Street.
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The suitability or otherwise of these dwellings for continued occupation after the war will be a matter for the Council to consider at the appropriate time.

Common Lodging Houses.

The conditions obtaining at the three common lodging houses situated in the area were reviewed during the year by the Council and registration permitted of two only. Registration of the third was refused on grounds of general unsuitability.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

During the year 53 samples of milk being retailed in the area were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:-

(1) For the presence of Tubercle Bacilli - These organisms were found in 3 out of 26 samples.

(2) For Cleanliness Tests - Of the 27 samples submitted for these tests:-

9	samples	of ungraded milk	were	satisfactory.
8	"	"	"	unsatisfactory.
3	"	"	"	barely satisfactory.

5 samples of pasteurised milk were satisfactory.
1 sample of an accredited supply after bottling
locally was unsatisfactory.
1 sample of pasteurised milk was unsatisfactory.

Appropriate action was taken in respect of all the unsatisfactory samples.

(5) Meat and other Foods - Since the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Northwich was closed down on the 31st October, 1941, no slaughtering has taken place in the District. The following, based upon a statement made by the Meat Inspectors, is a summary of meat and other foods inspected and condemned during 1943:-

Beef	120 lbs.	Flour	50 lbs.
Lamb	439 "	Sultanas	8 "
Liver	5 "	Imported Eggs	152
Bacon	92½ "	Fish Cakes	77 dozen.
Fish	140 "	Meat Pies	56
Cheese	16 "	Soups (Pkts.)	240
Magarine	15 "	Oats (Pkts.)	18
Butter	2 "	Tinned Meats,	
Custard Powder	58 "	Fruit,	
Jam	92 "	Vegetable &	
Apples	208 "	Fish	442
Tomatoes	202 "		

(c) The inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared has been continued during the year.

SECTION F.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases throughout the year was low and calls for no special comment. Of the 7 cases of Diphtheria notified only 5 proved to be genuine Diphtheria and of these five one had received protective treatment nearly three years previously.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1943.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	17	15	-
Diphtheria	7	7	-
Pneumonia	6	-	-
Erysipelas	5	3	-
Measles	20	-	-
Whooping Cough	16	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	1

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	47	3	44
Other Organisms etc.	7	1	6

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	3	2	1	-	1	1	-	-
25 - 35 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
35 - 45 "	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45 - 55 "	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	9	2	7	-	4	1	1	1

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1942 - 165.

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1943 - 175.

88 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year; six being reported on as positive.

(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme which was commenced in 1941 jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities was continued and by the end of the year 1943 the total number of children known to have had protective treatment in the Urban area was 3,304. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year 1943 were:-

under 5 years 41.5%.
between 5 - 15 years 78.1%.

Set out below is a table recording the progress of the Immunisation Scheme, the numbers dealt with in the various age groups, etc. since the Scheme was first started in 1941. This table takes the form of that recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	Persons inoculated each year from 1941 - 1943.			
	1941	1942	1943	
0 -	3	4	-	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st Dec. 1943:- 454.
1 -	58	67	62	
2 -	72	60	30	
3 -	96	35	25	
4 -	94	25	38	
5 -	143	42	33	Total inoculated aged 5 - 14 years on 31st Dec. 1943:- 2,038.
6 -	179	24	25	
7 -	217	10	11	
8 -	184	4	4	
9 -	201	5	4	
10 -	241	4	3	
11 -	239	4	4	
12 -	217	7	4	
13 -	245	9	3	
14 -	235	3	2	
15 and over	41	1	-	Total aged 15 years and over:- 525.
Total each year	2,465	304	248	Grand total 1941-1943:- 3,017.
Age not known	28	-	-	28.
Children known to have had treatment privately or elsewhere:-				259.
GRAND TOTAL				3,304.

(4) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangements made jointly in 1942 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities worked very satisfactorily during the year under review and it is gratifying to record a reduction in 1943 of 44% in the number of cases of vermin infestation. The following sets out the 1942 and 1943 figures of patients dealt with:-

Cases of Scabies	<u>1942.</u> 684	} total 730.	<u>1943.</u> 376	} total 412.
Cases of Pediculosis	46		36	
Number of Households involved	212		156	

At the time of writing, mid 1944, it is apparent that the incidence of Scabies is still decreasing.

(5) VENEREAL DISEASES.

The suggestions of the Ministry of Health's circular 2805, received in April 1943, stressing the need for greater publicity on the subject of Venereal Diseases were acted upon so far as this Authority is responsible for this service. Both films and posters were displayed locally throughout the year and complete lists of treatment facilities are available to all who may enquire about them.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected at least once during the year and 42 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating vermin.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1944.

